

Agriculture Impact Evaluations: Learning What Works

July 21, 2011

Agenda updated July 19, 2011

9 – 9:15 Opening Remarks:

- Sheila Herrling, Vice President, Department of Policy and Evaluation, MCC
- Julie Howard, Deputy Coordinator for Development, Feed the Future, USAID

9:15–10:30 Opening Panel –Challenges and Lessons in Agriculture Impact Evaluations

This session will frame the discussion for the day. The day's objective is to identify challenges, lessons learned and successful strategies for implementation of rigorous impact evaluations in the context of agriculture and rural development programs.

Panelists:

- Margaret Enis, Director of the Office of Markets, Partnerships and Innovation, Bureau for Food Security, USAID
- Jack Molyneaux, Director, Independent Evaluations, Department of Policy and Evaluation, MCC
- Christopher Udry, Department of Economics, Yale University, and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

- **Moderator:** Sarah Lucas, Director, Development Cooperation, Department of Policy and Evaluation, MCC

10:30–12:30 Panel – Country Case Studies– Different Ways to Rigorously Assess Impact

This session will review a series of country case studies from both the agriculture implementation and impact evaluation perspectives. The session will provide examples of a variety of impact evaluations methodologies, and explain experiences from the perspectives of implementers of agriculture projects and impact evaluation specialists. The panel will begin to identify common themes for further discussion during the day.

Randomized Rollout of Program Interventions

- Case #1: Armenia –MCC Irrigated Agriculture Project
 - Makrita Avjyan, Training Coordinator, VISTAA, Armenia
 - Ken Fortson, Mathematica Policy Research
 - Artak Harutyunyan, Water-to-Market Team Leader, ACDI/VOCA, Armenia
- Case #2: Nicaragua – MCC Rural Business Development Project
 - Anne Pizer, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, Department of Policy and Evaluation, MCC
- Case #3: Morocco – MCC Fruit Tree Productivity Project

- Tim Mooney, Director, Agriculture, Department of Compact Operations, MCC
- Case #4: Ghana – MCC Agriculture Project
 - Amanda Beatty, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
 - Christopher Udry, Department of Economics, Yale University, and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
- **Matching**
 - Case #5: Mali MCC Alatona Irrigation Project
 - Andrew Dillon, Postdoctoral Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
 - Case #6: Burkina Faso MCC Agriculture Project
 - Ken Leonard, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, and Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector (IRIS)
- **Moderator**, Katherine Farley, Senior Director, Agriculture and Land, Technical Services Division, Department of Compact Operations, MCC

12:30–1:30 Working Lunch – Lunch Provided

- Summary and presentation of key themes.
- Open discussion among participants about key themes, as preparation for breakout sessions.

1:30-3:30 Breakout Sessions

- Breakout sessions will focus on key themes as identified in the opening panel and case studies, and will be designed to foster discussion between agriculture project implementers, impact evaluators, and donor agencies. Each breakout group will be expected to identify key challenges and recommendations within the theme.

3:30-3:45 Coffee Break

3:45-4:45 Closing Plenary, Readout and Discussion from Breakout Sessions

4:45-5 Closing Remarks